VISIT…

MARVEL
RAZORLINE
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$1.75 U.S
SUPER HEROES FROM CLIVE BARKER
HYPERKIND
FACE THE SAVAGE RETURN OF...
WILL SHE BE FRIEND OR FOE?!
DIRECT EDITION
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OBI

ONCE, LONG AGO, SUPER HEROES WERE REAL. NOW, THE POWER IS REBORN INTO FOUR PRODUCTS OF THE GRIT AND GLITZ OF HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD: A JOCK, A RICH GIRL, A DRUG ADDICT, AND A CHILD OF THE STREETS. THEY WILL BECOME THE HEROES OF A NEW GENERATION — IF THEY CAN SURVIVE.

IT'S THE PAXIS COMPUTER...
SOME KIND OF VIDEO IMAGE!
INSIDE THE ABANDONED HELIOPOLIS CINEMA--
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
...I COMPLETELY DESTROYED IT IN OUR BATTLE WITH THERMAKK'!HH
--HIDDEN HEADQUARTERS OF A NEW GENERATION OF HEROES...
HSEE HYPERKIND #2!--MARC
WELL, SOMETHING'S UP AND RUNNING, LOGIX...A TAPE OF TEMPEST IN BATTLE!
YES, AND NOT JUST ANY BATTLE, I'M AFRAID! PARAGON JOHN SAID TEMPEST'S LAST FIGHT WAS WITH INEXTREMIS THIRTY YEARS AGO...
"...HER ALLY Z-MAN'S SUPER ABILITY WENT HAYWIRE... AND TEMPEST WAS DISCORPORATED...
"...HER POWER-SELF RETURNING TO THE QUO SARCOPHAGI...
"...SO THAT AMOKK COULD ONE DAY TAKE ON HER FERAL STRENGTH!
"SHE NEVER KNEW IT WAS PARAGON JOHN WHO ENGINEERED HER DESTRUCTION!"HH
HA HA HA HA HA!
HH CHECK OUT HEROES II HEROES 4 AND HYPERKIND #5 FOR DETAILS...--MARC

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"BUT WHY WOULD THE COMPUTER BE UP AND RUNNING NOW--AND SHOWING US THIS?!"
THE ANSWER LIES IN THE STRANGE CYBER-WORLD WITHIN THE PAXIS MACHINE... WHERE THE SOUL OF ESCHBACHER STANDS TRIUMPHANT!
I AM THE LIVING TOOL OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY NO LONGER!
BOW LOW TO ESCHBACHER, PAXIS COMPUTER, AND PREPARE FOR MY REIGN!
I-I MUST... RETURN! MY BODY...
ESCHBACHER IS NOW LORD OVER THE PAXIS MELD-SOUL, IN WHICH A PIECE OF EVERY PAXIS WARRIOR COMES TO REST.
...IT'S CALLING FOR ME! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!
BUT ONE DIVINA PARTICULA AURA WILL NOT REST!
I MUST BE FREE! THE POWER OF TEMPEST IS NEEDED ONCE MORE!
NO, WILDA! YOUR POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF ANOTHER! YOU MAY FEEL YOUR BODY CALLING YOU--
--YOU MAY INDEED LIVE AGAIN--
--BUT ONLY ONE BEING AT A TIME MAY BE POSSESSED OF THE QUO TRANSFIGURATION!
UNGH!
SKRAAK!

LOST...
ELSEWHERE...
WHAT-- WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...?
WH-WHO AM I?
CLIVE BARKER PRESENTS
HYPERKIND
CREATED BY
CLIVE BARKER
STORY
FRED BURKE
GUEST PENCILS
ROGER CRUZ
INKS
PETRECCA & HALBLIEB
LETTERS
STEVE OUTRO
COLORS
TOM SMITH
EDITS
MARC McLAURIN
CHIEF
TOM DEFALCO
CONSULTING EDITS
MALCOLM SMITH
EXECUTIVE EDITS
CARL POTTS
THIRTY YEARS AGO, Z-MAN'S ERRANT MOLECULAR ABILITIES DESTROYED THE PAXIS WARRIOR KNOWN AS TEMPEST, DISPERSING HER ATOMS ON THE WIND!
IN THE INTERVENING YEARS, PARAGON JOHN HAS DRUGGED THE WORLD'S WATER SUPPLY AND ALTERED ITS HISTORY BOOKS, ERASING THE VERY MEMORY OF THE PAXIS!
BUT NOW Z-MAN IS DEAD, AND WITH HIS PASSING, HIS VICTIMS-- INCLUDING THE ONE WHO WAS AN ALLY --ARE GRANTED A SECOND CHANCE!
NOW THE WOMAN WHO IS TEMPEST RETURNS TO A WORLD SHE DOES NOT KNOW AND A LIFE THAT REMAINS A MYSTERY...
AND FOUND
A TALE OF THE BARKERVERSE

HER NAME IS WILDA MACPHERSON...
... THOUGH SHE DOES NOT REMEMBER THAT FACT.
HONK HONK
BEEEEEEEEP
UPON OPENING HER EYES, MERE QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY FLEE HER MIND...
... CHASED BY HUMAN ISSUES MORE BASIC STILL...
... SUCH AS MORTALITY...
SKREK
WEOOWEOOWEOOWEOO
I--I COULD'VE BEEN KILLED! HOW DID I WIND UP ON A FREEWAY...
...IN MY UNDER-WEAR?!
-- AND, IT WOULD SEEM, MODESTY.
UPSY DAISY!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I'D BETTER AVOID THE POLICE...
... AT LEAST UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHO I AM!
THAT WAS SOME TRICK UP THERE... VAULTING OVER THOSE CARS!
HOW DID I DO THAT?!

WAIT--I REMEMBER...I WON A SILVER MEDAL, I THINK! IN GYMNASTICS...
...1912... IN STOCKHOLM... I--I WAS AN OLYMPIAN!
BUT I WAS SOMETHING ELSE, TOO! WHY CAN'T I...
OUGHTA BE ASHAMED OF Y'SELF! HALF NEKKID...
...INVADING A WOMAN'S HOME AND PRIVACY!
I DON'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU... IT'S JUST I... I DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM...
UP THERE'S THE FOOTHILLS FREEWAY. YOU'RE NEAR PASADENA. AND YOU'RE ON MY PROPERTY-- SO SCRAM!
FOOTHILLS FREEWAY? I DON'T REMEMBER ANY FOOTHILLS FREEWAY IN PASADENA...NOT IN 1963, ANYWAY.
1963? LADY, YOU PULLED ONE UGLY RIP VAN WINKLE. IT'S 1994 LAST TIME I CHECKED!
NO!
KENNEDY'S THE PRESIDENT, RIGHT?
NAH, KENNEDY WAS SHOT DEAD. NOVEMBER 22, 1963. A LOTTA BAD THINGS STARTED HAPPENIN' AROUND THEN...
...BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER 'EM ALL.
NOW LOOK HERE--DON'T YOU START ME TO CRYIN'! BESIDES, PRETTY LADY, YOUR AGE WAS JUST A TEENAGER IN 1963!
NO-- SOMETHING HAPPENED... KEPT ME YOUNG...
PASADENA! THAT'S NOT SO FAR FROM HOME--IS IT?
HERE! TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE...NEVER DID FIT ME, NOHOW...
TH-THANK YOU...
BUT HOME IS STILL A WORD ENSHROUDED IN UNCERTAINTY...

... AND WHEN A PASSING JEEP GIVES WILDA A LIFT...
...SHE'S STILL UNSURE OF HER DESTINATION.
SO... YOU'RE LOST IN TIME AND LOST IN SPACE, EH?
I SAW THOSE... AND YELLOW STARS... IN GERMANY, WHEN WE FREED THE PEOPLE FROM THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.
YES, YOU COULD SAY THAT...
...I COULD REMEMBER SOME THINGS, THOUGH-- LIKE THAT PINK TRIANGLE.
SILENCE=DEATH
BUT THE NAZIS WERE STOPPED! WHO MAKES YOU WEAR THESE NOW?
LADY, YOU REALLY ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!
HUSH, TONY! IT'S A REMINDER... THAT EVERY PERSON DESERVES HIS OR HER RIGHTS; LIFE AND FREEDOM FROM PERSECUTION AND IGNORANCE.
FREEDOM AND LIFE-- THEY STILL FIGHT FOR THESE THINGS EVEN AS WE DID...
"...IN THE FACE OF THE GREATEST THREAT TO LIFE EVER TO STRIKE THIS PLANET!"
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN OUR LISTENING AUDIENCE, THIS SPACECRAFT HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED WITH EITHER OF THE WARRING FACTIONS IN EUROPE!
THE MILITARY BELIEVE THAT IT MAY TRANSPORT A THIRD RACE OF ALIENS SET ON THE CONQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES!
WAIT! A FIGURE IS APPEARING AT THE TOP OF THE SPACESHIP! THE ALIEN INVADER SEEMS PREPARED TO MAKE A STATEMENT!
WILDA'S MIND IS TRANSPORTED TO THAT FATEFUL DAY IN 1917-- THE DAY THE QUO VESSEL FIRST LANDED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

MY NAME IS MANDAMUS THERMAKK, AND I COME IN PEACE!
THE HORUSIANS AND THE ANUBISTI--WARRING RACES FROM A PLANET IN MY SOLAR SYSTEM--HAVE CHOSEN YOUR WORLD AS THEIR BATTLEGROUND!
MY PEOPLE, THE QUO, WISH ONLY TO HELP YOU DEFEND THIS GLOBE YOU CALL THE EARTH! IN THIS SHIP IS TECHNOLOGY OF AWESOME POWER!
I SEEK FIVE HEROES, FIVE HUMANS READY TO BE ADVANCED TO THE NEXT STAGE OF EVOLUTION... TO BECOME...
HYPERKIN
THERMAKK! HOW COULD I HAVE FORGOTTEN HIM?!
COULD YOU TAKE ME TO THE AXIS GRAND MALL?
YOU GOT THE ADDRESS HANDY?
EVERYBODY KNOWS WHERE THE--OH, NEVER MIND!
A GIANT PYRAMID OF WHITE STONE... SEEN ONE AROUND LATELY?
THE PARAGON STUDIOS TOUR!
LIKE PARAGON JOHN?
YOU SAID IT, GIRL--JOHN DOORE RUNS THE WHOLE SHOW...

"AND WHEN HE DIES, I BET HE HAS HIS HEAD CRYOGENICALLY FROZEN AND BURIED UNDER THE MUMMY'S CURSE ROLLER COASTER!"
WHY DID I THINK THIS WAS HOME? IT'S SOME KIND OF DISNEYLAND KNOCK-OFF!
THESE THOUGHTS I KEEP HAVING ARE SEEMING MORE LIKE DREAMS THAN MEMORIES!
WELL, I'D BETTER GO SEE THE PYRAMID...
BUT THIS IS MY HOME--
HEY! WHERE'S YOUR TICKET?
THAT'S THE GRAND HALL! I DEMAND ACCESS!
--THAT'S THE PAXIS GRAND HALL!
I'M SORRY, SIR! SHE--SHE'S WITH ME!
SILENCE, GIRL! THERE IS NO PAXIS HERE! KEEP THAT WORD TO YOURSELF!
PARA-CORPS! HELP!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN-- TICKET?
PLEASE... I-I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
PARAGON
HERE'S A TICKET-- BUT PLEASE... SUBTLETY!
FIND THE DOUBLE DUTCH GIRLS. MEMORIZE THEIR SONG. FOLLOW THE SHINING PATH... TO THE FAITHFUL!
BUT BE CAREFUL-- YOUR VERY LIFE IS AT STAKE!
AND THEN HE VANISHES INTO THE CROWD...
SCRE
TREE
...AND THERE IS NOTHING BUT A SONG LEFT TO GUIDE HER...
A pixis, a paxis, I'll tell you What the faxis...
SO YOUNG...
"...I WAS SO YOUNG..."
THE LINE OF WOULD-BE HEROES STRETCHED ON FOR DAYS...

...EVEN LONGER THAN THE SEEMINGLY ENDLESS LINE FOR THE MUMMY'S CURSE ROLLER COASTER.
BUT WILDA BARELY NOTICES THE MAKE-BELIEVE HORRORS WHICH PARAGON JOHN HAS BASED IN LONG-HIDDEN FACT...
...SO LOST IS SHE IN THE STRANGER MEMORY OF HER OWN FIRST CLUMSY MEETING WITH THERMAKK, THE LAWGIVER OF OLD!
WELL, SPEAK! TIME IS SHORT! WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
WILDA MacPHERSON, MR. THERMAKK.
AND WHAT, CHILD, MAKES YOU BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN SERVE THE EARTH IN ITS HOUR OF NEED?
I-I'M A SILVER MEDALIST... SECOND BEST IN THE WORLD IN GYMNASTICS...
HAHAHAHA
SILLY CHILD! THESE THINGS MATTER NOT! STILL, THERE IS SOME SPIRIT HERE... BUT DO YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH... THE GRACE...?
...THE FLOOR EXERCISE... THE BALANCE BEAM... AND I'M NOT AFRAID...
I'M NOT SURE, MR. THERMAKK...

"... BUT I HAVE TO TRY!"
MY GOD! SHE'S JUMPED OFF THE RIDE!
IT'S THIS PLACE-- BRINGING IT ALL BACK TO ME!
ALL RIGHT, WILDA! LET'S SEE WHAT ELSE YOU REMEMBER!
KAKRESH!
TAFWOOSSSSS
CLARION! OH, I...
...NO... JUST THE COPIES OF THE COSTUMES... FOR EMERGENCIES...
OH, WILDA... WHERE HAVE ALL THE PIECES OF YOUR LIFE GONE...?
!
SLAMASH

THIS IS THE ONE WHO SET OFF THE PERIMETER ALARM! WE GOT 'ER!
THIS IS A RESTRICTED AREA, LITTLE LADY!
--AND I'M NO LITTLE LADY!
KRATHUG!
SHE FIGHTS WITH SKILLS LEARNED IN YEARS OF COMBAT, TECHNIQUES ONCE AUGMENTED BY POWERS NOW LOST.
AND WE PARACORPS ARE GONNA TEACH YOU...
...TO STAY IN YOUR PLACE!
HYAH!
FWOK
BUT THOSE SKILLS ARE AS WORN BY TIME AS HER MEMORY...
THIS IS MY PLACE--
...AND IN THE END, NO MATCH FOR THE PARACORPS MILITARY MIGHT.
FWAM
CALL DOC TRANSOM. WE GOT ANOTHER LOONY FOR 'IM...

THE MONROE HOME FOR THE MENTALLY DISTURBED, BEVERLY HILLS.
WE ARE A VERY EXCLUSIVE ESTABLISHMENT HERE AT MONROE...
BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING!
...AND PARAGON CEO JOHN DOORE HAS ASKED ME, DR. ELIAS TRANSOM, JR., TO LOOK AFTER YOU...
...PERSONALLY.
THESE PESKY DELUSIONS OF YOURS--
--STRANGE SUPER HERO FANTASIES... WE WON'T LET THEM BOTHER YOU ANY MORE!
NOOO!
...NOT DELUSIONS... REAL!
ESCHBACHER... CLARION... LOGICKA... DREAMDANCE...
THE HALLUCINOGENIC DRUG ZONA BEGINS ITS WICKED WORK...
...MY LIFE... MY PAST!
...FUMBLING THROUGH HER HALF-LOST MEMORIES, AND PREPARING THEM FOR ANNIHILATION!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER, THERMAKK! I'M SICK OF YOU LEADING ME ON!
EITHER CHOOSE ME TODAY--OR RELEASE ME TO MY LIFE!
YOU HAVE LEARNED MUCH IN YOUR MONTHS OF TESTING, WILDA...
TARSH
SMOOSH

...AND YOU ARE READY! PREPARE FOR THE GREAT TRANSFIGURATION!
THROUGH A ZONA-INDUCED HAZE, WILDA RECALLS HOW THE QHO TECHNOLOGY TORE HER APART...
I...I FEEL LIKE A HURRICANE UNLEASHED...A TORNADO OF FEROCIOUS STRENGTH!
A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT NO LONGER, EH, CHILD?
...RESTRUCTURING DNA, REPLACING FLESH AND BONE...
...AND BLESSING HER WITH POWER BEYOND HER DEEPEST IMAGININGS!
...T...TEMPEST...
THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS ONE!
TOO MANY MEMORIES OF THE PAXIS...
...MORE LIKE THE INITIAL CASES MY FATHER DEALT WITH YEARS AGO!
BUT WHERE WOULD A MIND SO YOUNG FIND SO MANY THOUGHTS OF THE PAXIS?
ARE THE RUMORS TRUE? SOME COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY THREAT, SPREADING THE OLD HISTORIES...DESTROYING MY FATHER'S GREAT WORK?
THE ZONA MAY NEED MORE TIME, BUT I WILL HAVE SATISFACTION! I PROMISE YOU!

DARKNESS FALLS...
...NIGHTMARE CREEPS THROUGH CHINKS IN STONE...
...UNLEASHING BOGEYS FROM CHTHONIAN ID...
PRETTY WOMAN... REMEMBERZZZ!
...WHO CARRY WILDA DEEPER STILL...
SHE IS OWRZZZ NOW...
CAREFUL! BRUISE NOT HER FAIR FLESH...
CARE-FUL...
...INTO THE EARTH'S COLD EMBRACE.
WHERE IS TORZ? RITUAL BEGINZZZ!
...UNGH...

PRETTY WOMAN WAKE UP!
WHERE...?
GET OFFA ME!
NO! LET ME GO!
LADY, IF YOU DON'T SHUT YER TRAP WE'RE ALL DEAD! HEAR ME?
YULLP!
TORZ! WE'VE GOT HER!
STOP HER!
N-NO LEGS!
IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE AFTER-- MY LEGS... FOR THEIR LEADER?
DO NOT BE AFRAID. WE HEAR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THESE WALLS--AND WE BELIEVE YOU...

WE NOT HURT PRETTY LADY... FRIENDZZZ...
WE HAVE PICTURES! IT WAS ON THE TEE VEE...
BUT, THAT'S THERMAKK! WHY IS HE FIGHTING THESE PEOPLE...?

NOT PEOPLE...
...KILLERS!
THEY'VE STOLEN THE POWERS OF THE AXIS--EVEN YOUR OWN!
BUT WHO--WHO ARE YOU?
I AM TORZ, LEADER OF THE ZANIACS...
"...OUR LIVES, TOO, HAVE BEEN DESTROYED BY THOSE WHO WOULD POSSESS THE POWERS OF THE HYPERKIND.
"DR. TRANSOM AND HIS FATHER--IN LEAGUE WITH PARAGON JOHN--
"--WE ARE THE REMNANTS OF THEIR EXPERIMENTS...THEIR CRUEL ATTEMPTS TO RECREATE THE ACCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN Z-MAN'S EMPOWERMENT"*
*SEE HYPERKIND #3.--MARC

WAIT, I REMEMBER...
...Z-MAN... HE... HE KILLED ME...!
BUT NOW, YOU HAVE ARISEN... TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.
Z-MAN IS RECENTLY DEAD, ANOTHER VICTIM OF PARAGON JOHN'S SCHEME...
...TO ERASE THE PAXIS FROM MANKIND'S MEMORY!
ANOTHER VICTIM...
...JUST AS WE ARE. TRUST YOUR MEMORIES. TRUST YOUR TRUTH. JOIN US...
SO LONG SINCE SHE HAS HEARD THOSE WORDS...
JOIN US...
'...IN THE BRILLIANT NEW LIFE OF THE QUO SARCOPHAGI!'
...SO LONG SINCE SHE HAS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGE... TO END ONE LIFE, AND BEGIN ANOTHER!
...ONE OF US...!

I AM THE TEMPEST...
STRENGTH AND GRACE, THEN, TEMPEST! YOU WILL NEED THEM--TO FIND FOUR MORE WHO ARE WORTHY OF SPIRIT, READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP...
...I AM FIRST OF THE EARTH PAXIS...
...SWORN TO BRING THE PEACE OF QUO TO MY WORLD!
THE PEACE NEVER CAME... AND NOW--
--MY FRIENDS ARE GONE!
VERY WELL, ZANIACS-- I'M WITH YOU... UNTIL I'VE HAD MY REVENGE!
WITH YOUR HELP, I WILL DESTROY MY FRIENDS' KILLERS--
--PARAGON JOHN, AND THOSE CHILDREN...

"...IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!"
KLZZT
LOOK OUT!
THE COMPUTER--SOME KIND OF FEEDBACK!
YEAH--JUST LONG ENOUGH TO SHOW US TEMPEST'S DEATH! CREEP ME OUT!
NOW THAT ARMATA'S RECOVERED, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO AMBERTRANCE...
WELL, SOMETHING GOT IT UP AND RUNNING FOR A FEW SECONDS...
DOESN'T SHE SCARE YOU? I THINK SHE'S A WITCH...
FWASH
AS IF WE TRUST YOUR SKILLS AS A JUDGE OF CHARACTER!
FWASH
BESIDES, WE PROMISED...
WHATEVER THIS AMBERTRANCE CHICK'S ABOUT, SHE'S THE ONE WHO CAN GIVE US ANSWERS ABOUT THE PAXIS...
...THE PAST...OUR POWERS...
...AND THIS WHOLE CRAZY WORLD WE'VE WALKED INTO.

"... WITHOUT OUR HELP, HOW WILL SHE REPAIR ALL THE DAMAGE TO HER HIDEY-HOLE?"
BUT THE CONDITION OF FAITHFUL HEADQUARTERS IS NOT NOW UPPERMOST IN THE MIND OF AMBERTRANCE FASIA...
SO, YOU ARE PRAXIS NO LONGER...? EVEN WITHOUT YOUR POWER FORM AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
...YOU'RE UNMISTAKABLE!
BUT YOU, SIR... ARE NOT...
NO... OUR LAST ENCOUNTER CHANGED ME--PERMANENTLY! YOU KNEW ME AS LAZUREX THE ROBOT MASTER...
...BUT YOUR DEATH WILL BE AT THE HANDS OF LAZUREX PRIME!
BY NOW, ARMATA IS EITHER HEALED... OR BEYOND HELP! EITHER WAY IF THOSE YOUNGSTERS DON'T SHOW UP SOON...
... MY LIFE'S LONG ADVENTURE IS... OVER!
NEXT ISSUE, THE POSSESSOR OF THE FIFTH POWER IS REVEALED AS
LAZUREX PRIME
TAKES ON THE HYPERKIND OF HERE!

SPECIAL BONUS
HYPERKIND
PIN-UP!

PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
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HYPERKIND

Marc McLaurin

what next?

When the plans for the Barkerverse were first laid, we never saw the deluge that the summer of '93 would become. There hadn't been a new comics universe released in about two years. Still, we found ourselves one of five new universes coming out at once! Regrettably, some of the RAZORLINE numbers suffered casualties as a result, as did many of the newer guys. But as part of Marvel, we're no new guys. We can take it like the best of them. But we also know how to pick our fights.

so what's it mean?

From the letters you've sent, we're doing something right. We just want to be doing it for more people.

So, next month, our final issue (sob) will outline our future. It's one full of surprises, and more action than you can shake a comic at.

Watch this space....

Dear Razorline,

You asked for me so here I am, and let me tell you I love Hyperkind. My favorite Hyperkind is Bliss, but I love them all. I can't wait for the fifth power to be revealed.

I also happen to be one of the lucky ones who have a Hyperkind #1. It was the cover that drew me to it. I had been looking for some new comics. The old ones (X-Men and others) had started to bring back old villains to play with again. I must say I'm glad that we didn't get to see all the powe: s come back at once, and I can't wait to see what it is in "Under Pressure" . . .or who it will be.

I do have a few questions, though. First, what is Lisa's power, exactly? Second, why does it hurt Bliss when her illusions are attacked? Third, what are the names of the keys? Last of all, how can someone else besides the owner trigger a key?

I guess that's all for now. Read you next issue.

Your female fan,

Tonyia Tucker
Holton, Kansas

Thanks for writing, Tonyia! Each of the Hyperkind manifests an evolved facet of the human psyche. Armata is the opposable thumb writ large; she has the power to utilize tools. How this power *manifests* is the tricky part. Inside Armata is a core of liquid metal which she can mentally manipulate into the weapon of her choice. Machine guns *(tekka tekka)* and blasters *(CHOOM)* are her two favorites. The same power can be used as a rocket pack! But, as we have seen, if she uses too much life energy — in the form of bullets, plasma blasts, or jet propulsion — without resting to recharge, she's in trouble! Armata is also armored and quite strong.

In a similar way, Bliss's illusions are an extension of herself — and when they're hit, she feels it! As for the keys, around here, we call 'em the Crane-Key (Bliss), the Ankh-Key (Armata), the Serpent-Key (Amokk), the Feather of Truth-Key (Logix), and the Eye of Horus-Key (that would be telling!). Any member of the Paxis can touch the keys without being burned — as well as anyone *given* one of the keys to protect.

Dear Hyperkind,

I'm disappointed. I really am. I truly expected something more from Paragon John than the same jealous, pouty garbage about someone unworthy being turned down and never growing up far enough to realize he's *not* perfect. That all his words and deeds are not those of a god. "If I can't have it, you can't either" is old, stale, and highly unworthy of Clive Barker's name. I recognized the psychological signs all along, but I was hoping you guys wouldn't fall into the trap. If the predictability continues like this, I'm ghost.

Dawn Lisowski
117 7th Ave.
Roebling, NJ 08554-1211

Well, Dawn, this is Fred writing — and we try to stay as worthy of Clive's name as we can. Still, at the end of the day, we have names of our own to come home to. I like to think ol' P.J. has a lot more depth than mere jealous pouting. Was John Doore turned down by Thermakk because he was legitimately "unworthy"? Seems like I've heard Thermakk use that word in reference to some Hyperkind I know and love. P.J. also talked about his dad quite a lot, as I recall — psychological signs which *could* point a little deeper than just plain refusal to grow up. Let us know if you're still around — or if you are, indeed, ghost. . .

Dear Hyper-people,

No offense meant to Marvel Comics, for I am a big fan of Marvel, but I've noticed a lot of other titles and comic companies whose stories are a lot alike. All sorts of characters are becoming a clone of the new X-MEN. Boring! I'm tired of the "I'm the best at what I do" characters. Every time I turn around, a different comic is cloning *The New X-Men*, a book (I feel) that has become very boring and predictable. Notice I said *The new* X-Men.

That is why when I saw Hyperkind #1, I thought, "Oh, great, another one." Well, I'm a collector (have been for 23 of my 28 years and have quite a large collection) and bought it because I thought it would be worth something in the future. Boy, was I surprised. It was original, well-drawn, and well-written, though somewhat bizarre. I liked it.

One question: in issue #4, Amokk says something to Bliss about exchanging powers. Is that possible? If so, in a future issue, you should try it.

Also, please try to do a story on missing children like Polly Klass. It would be appreciated.

Thanks, and keep up the good work.

Marshall Jesse Coutch
500 Middle Two Rock Road
Petaluma, CA 94952

And here X-Men is George's favorite comic! Of course, Amokk is also just waiting for the excuse to say, "I'm the best at what I do!" Although they don't know it, it is indeed impossible to use the Quo technology to exchange powers. Some other method might do the trick, though. Maybe we should pass that idea over to the editor of WHAT IF. . .?

I have considered a story about a kidnapped child — most likely one of George's younger siblings. Two things would be different from the Polly Klass tragedy, however: since George's family are Korean-Americans in a poor urban neighborhood, the media would probably not choose to cover the story; and since the Hyperkind would come to the rescue, I think we'd have a happy ending. Until next time. . .

Fred Burke

NEXT:

The fanatical fury of Lazurex Prime! How do you stop a man that's a living machine? Our heroes only shot is the lost fifth power — if they can locate it in the heat of battle with a mechanical fury! Be here for Paris Cullins' fantastic finale — and a battle so intense it'll be lying down room only!

CUTTING EDGE ALERT!

Next week in ECTOKID #8:

Dex acquires the power of possession, to save his mothers life — and accidentally swaps souls with her attacker! It's not pretty — and it may be permanent!

ELSEWHERE, ALONG THE RAZOR'S EDGE:

HOKUM & HEX #8:

Trip vs. Bloodshed, round two! Only one will walk away! (And considering Trip is already half dead, you might not want to place bets on who!) Don't miss this definitive issue of the world's wildest comic!